

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OF

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[No. 71]

### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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#### English Papers.

There were Four Arrivals from Sea noted in yesterday's Shipping Report, but neither of them were from England. The details are given in the Shipping List in our last page.

We continue in our present Number the progressive republication of articles from the London Journals:—and would direct the attention of the Reader to some matters of local interest in the Asiatic Department, and to an interesting Paper on the Present State of the Ottoman Empire, from a recent Work of a French Officer, who was for a long period Inspector of Engineers at Constantinople, and whose authority is therefore unexceptionable.

Our Readers cannot be more pleased than we are at being released from the claims of Editorial Controversy on their attention, to the loss of space and time worthy of being devoted to higher considerations. We shall not of course be willing to enter into pledges that circumstances might imperiously require us to break; nor, we hope, shall we ever be found sleeping on our post, when our vigilance is really called for. But as we think that nothing short of an involvement of principle, misstatement of facts, or strikingly unwarrantable inferences from certain given positions, ought to awaken opposition, we hope it will be confined to those legitimate objects; and that above all things the hostile, rancorous, and personal *bitterness*, that for so long a period marked the labours of Papers and Editors "now no more," will never be revived, or at least that the Society at large will express in the most marked and pointed manner, their sense of disapprobation towards those who may make the first attempt.

*London, September 2.*—The Government of the Ionian Islands has issued a proclamation against certain subjects of that state who have taken an active part in the war between the Greeks and the Turks. The Government regards this conduct as a violation of neutrality, and orders the leaders to return within 50 days to be tried, under pain of banishment and confiscation of their property.

*Steam Navigation.*—What a Revolution in various establishments will not the steam boats produce? It is not easy to anticipate their effects in the various lines in which their influence will be felt, nor to extend our view to the many objects to which the power of steam machinery may be applied. In navigation coast-wise, and also for traversing channels and narrow seas, we already perceive the inevitable ruin of the ordinary packets. The speed, the certainty as to time, the ease and accommodation of a steam boat, must secure to it a preference over the packet—fatal, indeed, to that species of property, but most favourable to public convenience. It will not merely facilitate intercourse, but it may be said to bring distant places nearer to one another. Excursions to the North by sea will now become parties of pleasure, instead of being undertaken with pain, from a motive of irksome economy. The gay will now resort to the watering places in the North, not merely from novelty, but from the superior advantages which they possess over those on the Coast of Sussex, in picturesque scenery, and in the abundance of the luxuries of game and fish. Scarborough, Porto Bello, Aberdeen, Peterhead, will become fashionable bathing places: and already we read of hundreds emigrating weekly from London for those places, by the steam vessels already established. Another advantage will be derived to the Metropolis, from the independence

which the steam boats have as to winds; that the supply of fish from the North will be regular and uniform. We can no longer be for weeks together without an importation.

Internal travelling must suffer by this diversion to the sea. Posting and stage coaches will, of course, feel the effects of this new course, and with their decline, the jans on the great Northern road, which have always been considered as the first in Europe, must suffer a falling off in their custom. Horses for posting and stage coaches must be lessened, and the demand from the farmer for provender be in proportion. The post-horse duty must also fall off, and, in short, its consequences will extend to all the trades connected with the fitting out of coaches, harness, &c. as well as to sail making and other materials for shipping, on the old plan of navigation. Nor can it be overlooked that this new species of vessel is little calculated to breed able seamen, or to enter into comparison in that respect with the domestic nursery of the coasting trade.

It may be asked, are these obvious and immediate consequences to particular classes of the community, to be regarded as arguments against the introduction of steam vessels? Certainly not. This, like every other improvement in machinery, which tends to lessen labour, though injurious in the first instance to various descriptions of people, tends ultimately to national opulence. Capital, skill, and labour are diverted, indeed, but not destroyed. Human ingenuity adapts itself to the new order of things, and sources of industry unthought of are opened, by the application of capital thus let loose.

*American Independents.*—Highly favourable accounts of the success of the American Independents in Venezuela and New Grenada have been received in the course of the week. (Sept.) A general engagement took place between the Independents and the Royalists on the 24th of June, in which the latter were completely defeated. This victory may be considered as decisive of the emancipation of Venezuela. After their defeat, the Royalists collected the scattered remains of their army in Porto Cabello; but it is supposed, that the number of the fugitives, and the consequent deficiency of provisions, will force its speedy surrender. The city of Caracas has been recaptured by the Patriots.

We hope the Spanish Cortes will have the good sense to relinquish this unprofitable and ruinous contest. It is for the interest of all parties that South America should be independent. Old Spain has never derived any considerable direct revenue from America; and, with the exception of Mexico, her expenditure in the other colonies has generally exceeded her receipts. Supposing, therefore, that she were to succeed in the present contest, it is plain, inasmuch as she would be under the necessity of maintaining larger garrisons than before, that whatever surplus revenue she had formerly derived from the New World would now be totally lost. Her renewed dominion would be altogether barren and unproductive. But, on the other hand, the commercial intercourse of Old Spain with the Colonies will be augmented by their becoming independent: For the demand of the colonists for European commodities, and their power to purchase them would, in consequence, be vastly increased; while the identity of language, of manners, and of customs, must always secure unusual advantages to the Spanish merchants. And the Cortes should bear in mind, that the industry of their citizens will only be developed in its full extent, when, instead of attempting to enrich themselves by oppression and plunder in America, they shall have turned their energies to agricultural and manufacturing pursuits.

Sooner or later the work of independence must be completed; and they are the real friends of Spain, as well as of America and of humanity, who persuade her to give up this unnatural struggle.

*Remains of Napoleon.*—We can state upon undoubted authority, that Prince EUGENE has addressed a letter to the Members of the Holy Alliance, and to the British Government, in which he claims the remains of the Emperor NAPOLEON, now deposited at St. Helena, contrary to his express injunctions contained in the following codicil to his testament:—

*Avril le 16, 1821, Longwood.*—Je désire que mes cendres reposent sur les bords de la Seine, au milieu de ce peuple Français que j'ai tant aimé.

I desire that my ashes may repose on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of that French people which I have so much loved.

*Bee-Hives.*—On the 22d of Aug. Mr. Rogers, of Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon-shire, have occasion to call on a friend, hang his horse to a gate, close to which stood a row of bee-hives. Being much teased by the flies, the horse became restless, and overturned one of the hives, when the swarm settled about his head. Mr. Shelton slipped off the bridle, in hopes that when at liberty the insects would cease torturing the poor animal; but unfortunately, in dashing off, the horse overturned about a dozen more hives, and was literally covered with bees, which stung him to that degree, that in his agony he rushed into a pond, where, after rolling once or twice over, he crawled out and expired on the bank.

*A Quaker.*—As the Lord Mayor was transacting the business on Tuesday (Sept 4.) a person of remarkable appearance, dressed as a Quaker, covered by a broad beaver, on which he wore a large cockade of red, blue, and white, came into the office attended by a string of persons whom his appearance had attracted. He approached the Lord Mayor in a respectful manner, and stated that he had no other business with his Lordship at present than to offer for his acceptance a paper which he held in his hand. His Lordship, he said with an air of mystery, might read it or not, as he thought proper: a copy of it had been transmitted to Earl Bathurst. He then said his name was Charles Wheatfield Squires, and withdrew without making any other observation. The paper he presented was found to contain a sort of caricature portrait of himself, with a velocipede, holding a paper, on which was inscribed "The Spirit of Despotism," and several unintelligible inscriptions. It is said, that this individual is the proprietor of a large farm in the country, which he suddenly left within a few days, and came to town on a velocipede, being seized with a design which, it is given out, will astonish and benefit the nation when divulged. For some days past he has been moving about the metropolis, and has excited much curiosity and speculation.

*Bulogne Sur Mer, Aug. 29.*—(Extract of a private letter.)—"Mr. Webster Wedderburn's *procès* was tried here this day, when after a deliberate examination of all the witnesses, himself, and the servant (who has been long perfectly well,) the Procureur du Roi pronounced Mr. Wedderburn's conduct perfectly justifiable, and that he had wounded the servant in his own defence, he having, by his own deposition, made the assault upon his master. The tribunal adjudged, therefore, 16 francs *amende*, and the costs to be paid mutually between the parties. Mr. W. was most ably defended by M. Bedouin, Advocate at Bologne."

*Destitute Greeks.*—A few days back, a number of destitute Greeks were brought to the Mansion-house, dressed in the national costume, and of very fine appearance. It appeared from the statement of a Gentleman who had very kindly attended to explain their case, that they came to this county in a Turkish frigate belonging to the Pasha of Egypt. The frigate was manned by fifty Greeks and thirty Turks; and the Captain, hearing in England of the Greek War, was afraid to go back with his former crew, lest the Greeks should rise and seize the vessel. He therefore paid and discharged them; and they were found wandering about the London Docks by the Gentleman who now interferred. The Lord Mayor regretted he could do nothing, and advised an application to the Secretary of State.

*Curious Fish.*—On the 11th of Aug. a curious fish, supposed to belong to the species known among sailors by the name of Johnny Dory, was found entangled behind the paling of a sea fence, below Dunmore harbour. It must have got into this situation during high water. When found, the water had left it, and it was heard bleating like a lamb, which it continued to do till the fisher who first made the discovery killed it. It was carried to Dunmore-house. It weighed 42 pounds, was three feet long and 20 inches broad. The colour of the fish was black, with large whitish spots on the sides, without any scales; the eyes as large as those of a horse; the mouth quite round, without teeth, and so large as to admit a man's hand freely; and round the extremity of the mouth is a folding of the skin, resembling a swine's snout. The belly only was fat, and the flesh resembled veal in taste. A person from the West Indies described it as a native of that country; that he had seen many, but none nearly so large.—*Scots Paper.*

*Greenland Fishery.—Accident.*—The *DEE*, Craig, with four fish; and the *JANE*, Bruce, with six fish, 110 tons, have arrived at Aberdeen, from Greenland, but bring no fresh accounts of the fishing. On the 17th of July, a large whale, which had been immediately before harpooned, struck one of the boats of the *JANE*, and in consequence, we are sorry to relate, that two of the crew were killed, and one drowned. The *UNION*, Mackie, with two fish, 15 to 20 tons, and the *ACTIVE*, Gray, with two fish and 2800 seals about 60 tons of oil, have arrived at Peterhead, from the Greenland whale fishery. The latter reports having seen the *HERCULES*, Pincheon, all well, on the 3d of August, but without any improved success, as was generally the case with the other ships formerly stated, with the exception of the *DUNCOMBE*, Colbert, of Hull, which although by former accounts, a clean ship, had, when seen, in the latter part of July, got six fish.—Arrived at Berwick, on Wednesday last, the *LIVELY*, Wildon, from Greenland fishery, with seven fish.—*Edinburgh Star.*

*Races at Exeter.*—On the second day of the races at Exeter, a pony, exactly 11 hands high, the property of a gentleman of that city, ran round the race course (two miles) in four minutes and a half.

*Derby Races.*—These races, which commenced on Tuesday, (Aug. 28) had been anticipated with great pleasure; the fine weather of the last week, the numerous entries of horses, the popularity of the Stewards (Sir G. Crewe, Bart. and R. R. Wilmot, Esq.) the expectation of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire's presence, and that of many others of the Nobility and Gentry in the county, all conspired to excite an unusual interest in this truly English pastime. The incessant rain, however, in part destroyed the expected pleasure of the Course. The Company in the New Stand, in the booths, and on the ground, was very thin, and the whole scene was destitute of the cheerfulness and gaiety which are usually witnessed on these festive occasions.—The extreme wetness of the day also prevented the appearance of the splendid equipages often seen on the Derby Race Course, particularly that of the Duke of Devonshire, who went to the ground in a travelling barouche with post horses. The heats, notwithstanding, were well contested, particularly for the cup, which could not be decided without a second race. Tarragon and Teniers were the well-matched horses, which ran in so close together as to make a dead heat; and the cup was won by Teniers in the next contest, by scarcely a length. The time employed in running the three miles was only six minutes and nine seconds.

A sumptuous ordinary was provided at the King's Head, and though only about sixty Gentleman partook of it, the Company was most respectable. His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Harrington, Lord Kinnaird, the Hon. Col. Cavendish, Hon. Capt. Curzon, Hon. Francis Curzon, Hon. Alfred Curzon, Sir Geo. Crewe, Bart. and R. R. Wilmot, Esq. (Stewards), &c. &c. were of the party.

The same cause which had kept away from the course and the ordinary much of the company previously expected, had its influence on the ball in the evening. Though brilliant with rank and beauty and fashion, yet the number present was not so crowded as is usual on similar occasions. Dancing was, however, kept up with great animation till past three on Wednesday morning.



Saturday, March 23, 1842.

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*Madrid Papers.*—The Madrid papers to the 14th Aug. arrived yesterday. We extract the following article on the state of the country from the *UNIVERSAL* of the 11th:

"The ready payment of taxes, and the facility of the enrolments for supplying the vacancies in the Army, may be said to form the touchstone whereby all the world may know whether the people are satisfied with the institutions by which they are governed. It is true that in despotic Governments imposts are levied and troops enlisted; but the disgust at the contributions, and the reluctance of the soldiers, are manifested by the force which it is necessary to employ to obtain from the people the sacrifice of their money and their liberty. These reflections are suggested by the accounts which we receive from all the provinces of the punctuality with which the taxes are paid, and the promptitude with which the soldiers required for supplying the vacancies in the army are enrolled.

"We have said on former occasions, and as yet we have found no reason for altering our opinion, that the people never paid the taxes with so much punctuality, and required so little pressing to make the payments, as since the re-establishment of the Constitutional system. If there are any arrears, it must be acknowledged that the people cannot be blamed, and that the fault is owing to certain defects in the mode of collection, which are in the course of being corrected, and which the wisdom of the Cortes, and the vigilance of the Government, will soon entirely remove.

"As to the enrolments for the army, we learn all from the provinces, that they never were made with so much expedition and so free from abuse and disorder. We could name some provinces which have been particularly remarkable for the zeal with which this patriotic service has been fulfilled; but this distinction might offend others, where, if equal haste was not shown, it was not for want of good will, but on account of difficulties arising from their greater extent of territory, or other circumstances which came from no imputation on their patriotism. We cannot, however, refrain from particularly mentioning that those provinces which have hitherto, in virtue of ancient privileges, been exempt from this service, have, notwithstanding, obeyed without any repugnance the just law which is equal to all.

"In fine, the Spaniards have overcome that strong aversion which they had to enter into the army. The Spanish soldier now knows, that in taking up arms he does not cease to be a citizen. He is certain that he will be treated by his Chiefs with that consideration which is his due, and that when the period fixed by the law for his service expires he will return to live tranquilly in the bosom of his family. The fathers who formerly wept as if for the death of their sons when drawn for the army, now console themselves with the certain hope of their return, and with the conviction of the good treatment which the soldiers receive. They are no longer afraid of seeing them sacrificed in some unjust war founded in caprice, or commenced in support of chimerical rights which have no relation to the independence and prosperity of the country."

*Pope's Nuncio.*—The meeting of the extraordinary convocation of the Spanish Corte is fixed for the 24th of September. The Pope's Nuncio has been publicly insulted in the streets of Madrid!

*Earl of Fingall.*—His MAJESTY has created the Earl of Fingall, the leading Catholic Nobleman of Ireland, a Knight of St. Patrick.—*Scotsman*, Sept. 1.

*Citizen of the World.*—"A sum of 5,000*l.* stands invested for the mutual benefit of two very excellent institutions in London.—The Magdalen Asylum, and the Foundling Hospital. It was bequeathed to them by one Ohmichund, a black merchant in Calcutta, who left many equally liberal donations to other charitable institutions in all parts of the world."

*The Pun Legal.*—Two country gentlemen having a dispute regarding each other's right to a few acres of ground, involving a point of law, a Wag recommended them to refer the question to the landlord of the Mouse and Mopstick, he having had much practice at the Bar.—*Lit. Gaz.*

*Excessive Fondness of Dress.*—Elizabeth of Russia resembled her namesake and sister, Queen of England, in self idolatry, and both lavished on their own persons, every adventitious aid to native charms. Our Elizabeth was said to possess a rich habit for every day in the year, and she varied its form and decoration to three hundred and sixty-five inventions of excursive fancy. A thick quarto volume was filled with a simple detail of the wardrobe appertaining to Elizabeth of Russia. This mania has not been confined to the fair sex. When Dresden fell into the hands of Prussia, during the seven years war, the Saxon Minister, Count Bruhl, afforded the visitors a spoil of 800 pair of boots, which Frederick ordered should be distributed to his guards.—1,200 wigs which had state in turn upon the lofty brow of the statesman, were thrown in a heap upon the floor of a public store to be sold; and it was whispered, that many hundred dozens of shirts, silk stockings, and laced cravats, with every species of masculine finery, had been sent to different marts, and converted into cash for the Royal Treasury.

*French Savings Bank.*—The following Extract from a French Journal presents a lively picture of the characters and groups which on days of business beset the doors of the Savings' Bank in Paris. It cannot fail to strike the English reader, that the whole scene is peculiarly French:—

"Among the moving pictures which Paris displays to the eyes of the observer, there is none more varied or more interesting than those which the Savings' Bank is the theatre. It is well known that this philanthropic establishment has for its object to improve the small savings of the mechanic, and the surplus of small fortunes. Its accounts current are opened at 20 sous for labourers and 600 francs for tradesmen.

They have appreciated the benefits of this establishment. They carry their savings to it with joy and confidence, and the moralist rejoices to see the foresight of old age and the anticipation of future want making so deep an impression on the minds of the lower orders. On Sunday this Bank receives the stores which the multitude have to deposit. As soon as 10 o'clock strikes, all ranks, all classes and conditions are seen pell-mell hastening thither. It is the image of perfect equality. You may there distinguish the modest office clerk, who comes every month to deposit faithfully the 48 francs, which is to form the snow ball capable of being converted, by his perseverance, into a capital of 10,000 francs. He stands in the presence of the head of his office, who chinks a purse of crowns as the saving from his income. The fine black coat of the placeman is not offended by the contact of a journeyman mason, who brings the forty sous which he saved in one week from his holiday amusements. Next appears an author of *Vaudevilles* (*farce writer*) who tries to realize a capital from an *encored* complot. There you may sometimes see the laundress and the milliner passing with downcast eye acquaintances who know full well the secret of their savings and the servant woman who has asked leave to carry the portion of her wages which she has laid by, after the purchase of necessary dress. Finally you hear the sound of the house porter's five per cent. saving, which mixes with the gold of his landlord. At these Sunday meetings, all faces smile, all hearts are full of hope. On Tuesday the scene is changed, for that it is the day of drawing. The indisposition of a father compels an affectionate daughter to attack her little treasure, of which she will only take a part. The coquette, whose projects last only for a day, cannot hold out against the shawl of the haberdasher, and draws out the bill of 500 francs which she had deposited the evening before; while a poor mechanic out of employ draws from his savings so much as is necessary to maintain him till he gets a new job. Between the Sunday and the Tuesday the contrast is striking—fortune has also her work-days and her holidays."

*Steam-Packets.*—Almost every week adds to the number of steam-packets. One was launched at Stourport a few days since upon a new construction, which is to ply on the river Severn, between Stourport and the city of Gloucester.

*The Pun Medical.*—A gentleman, who was in the habit of taking pills for his amusement, was continually changing them; on which a friend remarked, that he resembled the capital of Turkey, as he was *Constant-to-no-pill*.—*Lit. Gaz.*

**The Moving Bog.**

Says Pat to the Bog, "Arrah, where are you going,  
For never before have I seen you take wing?"  
"By my soul," says the Bog, "since you'd be after knowing,  
I'm going up to town just to welcome the King?"  
Dublin, July 22.

"Cum risu miror."—Hon.

ZEPHYR.

My SEWELL! what glory 'twill be,  
When the Press shall come under thy thumb,  
And wear "imprimatur" from thee.  
Round its neck, or for ever be dumb!

Oh! then like that Goddess's son,  
Who reigned on the banks of Fleet Ditch;  
The "Journals and lead" you'll have won,  
And your fame should "the Dunciad" enrich.

\* He brought up half the bottom on his head,  
And loud demands the Journals and the lead—**POPE**

**The Miseries of Literature.**

"——— Tenet insanabile multos  
Scribendi cacoëthes.—JUV. SAT. VII."

Sir, To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

With nothing else to do, I am strangely puzzled what to read—  
not for want of books, Heaven knows; but as I would read such as have  
in them "no offence to the world," I am nearly starved amidst plenty.

In early life, I let nature take her course pretty freely; consequently I experience very little satisfaction in *moral essays*, which are  
ever and anon giving one some ugly slap. *Plays and Novels*, I find still  
more impertinent; for as it pleased my stars to marry me at fifty-six, to  
a Lady just turned sixteen, you cannot conceive the vexation contained  
in Books of this sort. To read them at home is perfect tenter-book  
work; and to go to the Theatre is still rather worse. The last play I  
saw (and it shall be the last) was *The School for Scandal*, and on Sir  
Peter exclaiming—"When an old man marries a young wife, he deserves—  
he—no—the crime carries the punishment along with it." I could not, for  
the soul of me, help thinking that the house were looking and laughing  
at me. As it respects me, then, these are sealed books.

I shall next mention *political pamphlets*. If I peruse *one*, I feel illu-  
minated, and all is clear to me as the noon day; but if I read *two*, my  
light goes out, and I am plunged in Cimmerian darkness. It is just so  
with *newspapers*; indeed, a friend of mine, who loves to see every thing  
marching on triumphantly, and all right, will never read any but the  
Ministerial papers. "I always like to read *good news*," is his expres-  
sion. *Pamphlets* then and *papers* I have abandoned, for if I read one sort,  
and happen to open my mouth, I am called a *Radical*—if the other, a  
*Pensioner*. What "double-faced villains" Ministers must be. Those  
who look at them on one side, see in them nothing but virtues and good  
qualities, while the spectators on the other behold nothing but imbeci-  
lity, corruption, and vice. Poor LAVATER! what would'st thou have  
done in these days?

*Reviews* are no direction to my judgment whatever. Should the  
*Edinburgh* tell me that a book is admirable, and I praise it, another who  
has read the *Quarterly* assures me it is utter trash, and that I know no-  
thing at all about the matter. Such reading is like poring over all the  
*laws* that have been enacted—by the time you get one statute tolerably  
fixed in your memory, you come to another by which it is repealed.

When I resided in the metropolis (it is many years ago) I recollect  
that certain *poets* were (excuse the Irishism) the immortals of the day.  
Fame had no breath for any other; but since then I hear that some  
Gentlemen of *Caledonia*, or of the *Lakes*, have filled all her trumpet—and  
such will, most likely, in time (less time) give place to other ribbonds  
esteemed more fashionable. On this fantastic herd I have long ceased  
to venture an opinion.

The *Classics* are my only safe reading. *Thucydides* and *Tacitus* can  
be perused with solid information, and even talked of with security.  
With regard to their party spirit is dead, and all are agreed that *rom-  
ances* there were foolish Princes and diabolical Tyrants, as well as cor-  
rupt and wicked Ministers, and oppressed and degraded people!

ESTI.

**MARRIAGE.**

On Thursday, the 23rd of August, at West Wrattling church, by the  
Rev. Gale Townley, Richard Greaves Townley, jun. Esq. eldest son of  
Richard Greaves Townley, of Fulborne, in the county of Cambridge, to  
Cecil, second daughter of Sir Charles Watson, Bart. of Wrattling Park,  
in the same county.

**Extraordinary Rains.**

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

Sir,

In your Paper of this morning, there is a *rain of striped shells*,  
and a *rain of white butterflies*. It is impossible to say what the clouds  
may produce next, but if any of your Correspondents should perceive  
the slightest symptom of *rain of yellow swereigns*, and would have the  
goodness to say in what county they may be expected to fall, it would  
greatly oblige your constant though needy Reader,

August 30, 1831.

W. W.

**Madeira and Maggots.**

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

Sir,

Your Correspondent, "The Lover of good Wine," is not correct  
in stating generally, that Madeira wine never breeds worms at or round  
the fasset. I could shew him some at this time; the season, however,  
is now arrived when they are mostly turned to flies, which are visible  
about the head of the cask when the wine has escaped through. It is a  
curious, but most frightful insect. I have often examined them through  
a microscope.

I am, Sir, your's,

Wes'-India Docks, Aug. 25.

BACCHUS.

A customer of mine once told me my Madeira wine was full of maggots.

**East-India Revenue Laws.**

To the Editor of the Asiatic Journal.

Sir,

Considering your Journal as a very useful and faithful record of  
events connected with the East-India Company and their Asiatic-Terri-  
tories, I beg leave to point out to you some *trifling errors*, which seem to  
have occurred during the late Session of Parliament, in regard to certain  
alterations in the Revenue Law, which relate to that portion of the Bri-  
tish Empire.

In the first place, I must beg leave to notice that the article *Pepper*,  
which formerly paid a custom-duty, is now placed under the manage-  
ment of the Board of Excise, who, in their wisdom, have recommended  
a new enactment, viz. that in future pepper shall be imported only in  
bags of a certain weight, without recollecting the immense difference  
which this new mode of importation will make in the amount of freight,  
it having been uniformly shipped in bulk, and also that this article is  
brought from a place (Bencoolen) where gunny-bags, even at a high  
price, are seldom, if ever, to be procured.

The Act here quoted not only glares upon us with this palpable in-  
consistency, but it actually repeals the former duty altogether upon  
Cayenne-pepper, long-pepper, chillies, and such like articles, without  
imposing a new one; leaving the unhappy importers of these commodi-  
ties to wait the wisdom of a new Act, before they can possess themselves  
of their property.

A new enactment also has taken place in regard to *East-India Sugar*,  
recently placed in competition with the *West-India Sugar*, to guard  
against any accident which might befall our colonies. This article, to please  
the *West-India* planters, I suppose, is now made subject to an enormous  
duty, equal almost to a prohibition. There are certain inconsistencies,  
which I will not stop to explain to you; but you will scarcely perhaps  
believe, without reference to the Act itself, that at the same time that it  
relieves sugars, shipped before a certain period, from the operation of  
the Act, it imposes the new high duties upon all the sugars now deposi-  
ted in the East-India Company's warehouses.

These little slips in the genius of the persons concerned in framing  
the Acts, are now, I am informed, in course of discussion by the Boards  
of Revenue and their officers; who, being practical men, could not have  
been consulted as they ought to have been, before these legal measures  
were hurried through the House of Commons. I trust they will be  
eventually repealed or modified. In the mean time, I congratulate the  
lawyers upon their duplicate fees, and the officers of Customs and Excise  
upon the *compensations* and *satisfactions* which will be awarded them, in  
lieu of the numerous seizures which these *trifling difficulties* will occa-  
sion.

If these observations are considered worthy of notice, I have a few  
more memorandums in my common-place book, which may afford amuse-  
ment and information to your readers, and which I shall very willingly  
communicate. In the mean time,

I am, &c. &c.

Asiatic Journal for September.

A MERCANTILE OBSERVER.



# MISCELLANEOUS.

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## State of the Ottoman Empire.

*Times, August 30, 1821.*

The recent events in Moldavia and Walachia, and the insurrection of the Greeks in the Morea, having rendered the Ottoman empire an object of more than usual attention, some authentic information relative to the present state of that empire, the extent of its power, its military force, and the system of the government, cannot fail to be acceptable to most of our readers. Of this character are the facts collected by Colonel A. de Juchereau de St. Denys who was for several years Inspector of the Ottoman Engineers, and who, in consequence of his frequent intercourse with the Ministers of the Porte, and the nature of his employment, had opportunities for accurately observing both the government and the people which few Europeans have possessed. He was an eyewitness of the revolutions of 1807 and 1809, in which two Sultans were deposed and strangled, five Grand Viziers beheaded or poisoned, and several subaltern ministers torn in pieces by the populace. It is on such occasions that the classes possessing any influence over the people put forth claims of rights which are allowed to slumber in tranquil times, and it appears that Mr. de Juchereau did not neglect the opportunities which these terrible crises afforded for observing the heterogeneous and conflicting elements of the Turkish power. He accordingly explains very clearly the circumstances which have set bounds to the apparently unlimited power of the sovereign.

The Sultans who founded the Ottoman empire, at a time when there were several pretenders to the Caliphate, each of whom declared himself the legitimate successor of the Prophet, assumed also the title of Caliph. In order that they might enjoy an uncontrolled authority in their dominions. These warlike monarchs, however, disdained to discharge in person the judicial and sacerdotal functions of Caliph or first Imam. They consigned the interpretation of the laws to the Mufti, the administration of justice to the Mollahs and Cadis, and the ordinary ceremonies of religion to the Sheiks and Imams. This neglect of the Turkish sovereigns soon accustomed the people to regard the Ulemas as the only person entitled to perform the offices of religion and administer justice. Thus the Emperors were reduced to the necessity of taking counsel from the Muftis, and the Ulemas would probably have possessed themselves of the whole sovereign authority, had not the Sultans retained to themselves the right, as Caliphs, of changing the ministers of religion and judges as well as political functionaries and military commanders. In their endeavours to counteract this power, the Ulemas attached to their interests the Janissaries, who were glad to obtain the patronage of that venerable body. In consequence of this alliance the Porte cannot make a new law or impose the most trifling tax without obtaining the previous approbation of the Ulemas and the Janissaries. This controlling influence and check on the power of the government is in no way favourable to the liberty of the Turks or the prosperity of the state. On the contrary, it is the main cause of the weakness of the Empire and the ignorance of the people. That ignorance is not the effect of Islamism, as some writers assert, without reflecting that the Arabs, who have spread that religion over a great part of the globe, cultivated the arts and sciences at a time when the Christian population of Europe was in a state of barbarism. The cause is to be found in the political situation of these two bodies. The Ulemas have always decried the introduction of any kind of knowledge which might diminish the respect which is paid to their theological erudition. The Janissaries equally oppose all improvements in discipline, and in particular the introduction of the military tactics of Europe, which would soon deprive them of the power they possess.

The accounts given of the rise and abolition of the corps disciplined in the European manner, under the name of the Nizam-Gedittes, the favour shown to which by Sultan Selim III. cost him his throne and life, and of the passage of the Dardanelles by Admiral Duckworth, are highly interesting.

The principal agent in the conspiracy by which Selim was dethroned was Cabakchy-Oglou, the commandant of a corps called the Yamacks, employed in the batteries on the Bosphorus. An attempt was made to induce these men to enrol themselves in the Nizam-Gedittes, and this served as a pretext for their insurrection. In concert with the Janissaries they attacked the Seraglio; the Sultan was obliged to yield to their demands, and all the ministers who favoured the military reforms were sacrificed.

Though the triumph of the Janissaries was now complete, they were not to be satisfied while a Prince remained on the throne who had a taste for European civilization. Cabakchy-Oglou assembled the Janissaries and addressed them. He observed, that though Sultan Selim had yielded every thing, they could not expect to be safe while he reigned, and proposed that the following question should be submitted to the Mufti:—

“Does a Padishaw, who, by his conduct and orders, opposes the principles of the Alcoran, deserve to remain on the throne?”

The Mufti, who acted in concert with the conspirators, was prepared for the question, and returned this answer—“No: God knows the best.” Cabakchy then suggested that Selim should be deposed, and Mustapha, the son of the Sultan Abdul-Hamid, should be raised to the throne. This proposal was agreed to with acclamation, and the insurgents immediately proceeded to put it in execution. But the Seraglio was closed. The pages and the bostangys were under arms. Mustapha, who had been proclaimed Sultan, was in the power of Selim. It was necessary to announce to the latter the decision of the Janissaries and the Ulemas, and to obtain access to the former. How this was accomplished is described by Mr. Juchereau de St. Denys, and the particulars of what passed within the Seraglio he had from one of the pages, who was an eyewitness:—

“The Mufti, whose sacred character protected him from the punishment of death which he had deserved, was commissioned to go to the Seraglio to inform Sultan Selim of his fate, and advise him to submit without attempting a useless resistance. This pontiff, who knew the mild character of his sovereign, readily undertook the task.

“The news of the resolution adopted by the Janissaries, in concurrence with the advice of the Ulemas, had been brought to the Seraglio by emissaries, who had been sent at the beginning of the disturbance into the city to watch the proceedings of the insurgents. But among the reports circulating they had heard that some officers of the Janissaries offended at the conduct of Cabakchy and his Yamacks, were inclined to join the Nizam-Gedittes and defend Selim. This rumour flattered the hopes of the Sultan's friends.

“Selim, who had quitted his Harem at an early hour was in the great saloon of the Palace, where the Ottoman Emperors usually gave audience to their Ministers. His was seated in the corner of a sofa, surrounded by his favourite domestics, who stood around him in respectful silence, and whose looks and stifled sighs expressed the most poignant grief. Being informed that the Mufti was without and requested an audience, he ordered him to be admitted.

“This pontifical magistrate advanced slowly, with a melancholy air, and his eyes fixed on the ground, giving at intervals utterance to deep sighs. On approaching his Sovereign and benefactor, he prostrated himself, and spoke to the following effect:—“I come, Sir, to execute a painful mission, which I accepted to prevent the misled and furious populace from entering this sacred place. The Janissaries and all the people of Constantinople have declared that they will not recognize any other master than your cousin Sultan Mustapha. Resistance is dangerous, and can only serve to cause a useless shedding of the blood of your faithful servants. This fatal event was written in the book of fate. What can we, weak mortals, do against the will of God? Nothing is left for us to do but to humble ourselves before him, and to adore his eternal decrees.”

“Sultan Selim listened calmly, and without changing countenance, to the address of the hypocritical Mufti. All resistance he knew was vain, and in the countenances of those around him he perceived only the expression of fear and resignation. After telling the Mufti that he submitted to the will of Heaven, he rose. His countenance was noble and handsome; and the dignity of his air, which corresponded with the purity of his mind, gave an impressive expression to his features. After a look of tenderness to those about him, as if to bid them adieu, he walked slowly to the door of the Saloon, and proceeded to the apartments in which he had been shut up before he ascended the throne.

“On entering this place of captivity he met Sultan Mustapha, who was preparing to leave it, to whom he said—“Brother, the will of God has removed me from the throne. I wished to make my subjects happy. My intentions were pure. But the people, whom I loved and wished to raise to their ancient rank, have taken offence at what I have done. Since they do not wish me for their sovereign and I cannot make them happy, I leave the throne without regret. I congratulate you sincerely on your elevation, because I am convinced that when you have it in your power to do good, you will not neglect to labour for the glory and welfare of the empire.”

“Mustapha, who had much levity of character, and who was dazzled with his change of fortune, listened with little attention to this discourse, and received with indifference the affectionate embrace of Selim. The captive monarch then proceeded to deposit his sorrow in the bosom of Sultan Mahmud, whom the rigorous laws of the Seraglio rendered his fellow prisoner.

“Mahmud, who possessed an elevated character and a good disposition, was capable of appreciating the virtues of his cousin. He testified his attachment and respect by casting himself at his unfortunate relative's feet and kissing his hands. Selim, melted by these marks of affection, forgot his own misfortunes. He devoted his attention to the education of his young friend, and found in him a disciple equally diligent and docile.”

We extract the following article respecting the Greeks from the author's account of the different nations which compose the population of the Ottoman empire:—

"The Greeks, though conquered by Rome, preserved a part of the glory of the Roman people during more than ten centuries after the downfall of that proud city. It was not till 1453 that the new Rome, after having withstood many sieges, fell under the dominion of the barbarians. This would probably have been avoided had she not been bowed down under the yoke an arrogant and ambitious clergy, and had not the patriarchs become more powerful than the Emperors, and the monks more numerous than the soldiers.

Mahomet II., who joined to his warlike talents an extraordinary sagacity, soon appreciated the Greeks, and discovered the real cause of their weakness and their fall. He resolved to keep them in submission by placing them under the immediate government of the Patriarch and the clergy. Such was the political motive which dictated the famous *Kattisherif*, which the Greeks regard as their constitutional charter.

This judicious Prince established, by the *Kattisherif*, the Patriarch of Constantinople, Chief of the Greek nation, President of the Synod, and Supreme Judge of all affairs civil and religious. He exempted him from the *Kharadje* as well as all the members of the Synod, which was composed of twelve metropolitans, and was destined to form the grand council of the nation.

All the *Cadis* and Turkish military governors were ordered to execute the judicial sentences of the patriarch with respect to Christians of the Greek ritual, those of the bishop within their diocese, and to assist the clergy in the collections of their dues and revenues. The Patriarch of Constantinople and all the metropolitans were authorized to exact an annual contribution of 12 aspres for each family, and one sequin for each Papa of their diocese. All pious bequests were declared lawful. The *Osmanlis* were ordered to regard the churches as sacred and inviolable places. No Greek was to be compelled to abjure the faith of his ancestors to embrace that of the conqueror.

But all the advantages of this charter were for the priests. Their rights, privileges, and powers were determined and guaranteed. The people are only mentioned as objects of taxation and servitude.

Wishing, however, to flatter in some measure the Greek nation, Mahomet II. declared in his *Kattisherif* that the election of the Greek Patriarch should be made by the representatives of the clergy and the nation, and that he could not be deposed except with the consent and upon the demand of the body by which he was elected. This regulation, which appeared so favourable, has since become a source of continual dissension among the Greeks, and a mine in which the Turkish government and ministers have long been accustomed to seek the means of satisfying their avarice.

The first patriarch elected after the *Kattisherif* of Mahomet II. received the *Caffetan* and the *Hazeran* or baton in the presence of that Monarch, who ordered a gratuity of 1,000 sequins to be presented to him. The Greek patriarchs preserved this prerogative until Parthenius, misled by ambition or fanaticism, conspired against the Porte.

Since that epoch the patriarchs have not been admitted to the presence of the Sultan, and only received the *Caffetan* and the *Haze* ran before the Grand Vizir. Instead of receiving, as formerly, a gratuity of 1,000 sequins, they are obliged to pay the Porte 100 purses as an installation present.

The Patriarch holds a *Divan* twice a week for trying civil causes. His sentences are not necessarily final, as the parties have the right of appeal to a Turkish tribunal; but they always take an oath and enter into an engagement to abide by the decision of the head of the church.

Crimes are not within his jurisdiction. The Turkish tribunals alone take cognizance of them. However, from a wish to preserve the dignity of the Christian name, the Greeks seldom seek justice from the Turks against robbers or assassins of their own communion. These, after the cases are investigated by the Patriarch, are usually condemned to the galleys, being on the simple request of that Pontiff, sent to increase the multitude of chained slaves, who labour in the arsenals of Constantinople.

The administration of justice forms a source of revenue for the Patriarch and all the metropolitans. They levy a duty of ten per cent. in each cause, on the value of the property in dispute. The emoluments of the Patriarch must be considerable, since he is obliged to deliver 70 purses annually, as a bribe for this single branch of revenue. But, besides his permanent revenues, he is accustomed to claim 20 purses from each metropolitan for the expense of his installation, and he sells to the subaltern priests the right of exercising their functions.

The subaltern priests are divided into three classes:—1. The *procurators*. These make the people pay dearly for the ceremonies of marriage, burial, and baptism. They also derive a considerable revenue from the custom which they have established of blessing every month the houses, lands, and persons of their parishioners.—2. The *pneumatics*, or confessors, who sell the absolution of sins at as high a price as possible. 3. The *ephemerios*, or journeymen. This is the modest denomina-

tion of a class of priests who have no income except the payment they receive for the masses they celebrate.

The bishops imitate the patriarchs, and derive their principal revenues from the administrations of justice and the sale of ecclesiastical functions. All the dignitaries of the church extort money from the inferior priests, and these repeat the extortions of the people.

But, besides the Patriarch at Constantinople, and all the officers of his establishment, the Greek church has also to support the three Patriarchs of Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria, thirty-two Archbishops, and 140 Bishops, who, having no regular funds or income are maintained at the public expense. Some of them, however, and among the rest the Bishop of Ephesus, have to the extent of 100 purses, or more than 50,000 francs of revenue.

To draw so much money from a people already weighed down by the oppression of a conqueror, and to keep them steadfast to the principles of a faith which is the sole cause of their servitude, it is necessary to work upon them by every means calculated to give an ascendancy over their minds. In doing this, the Greek priests have displayed great address and much knowledge of the human heart. They are not content with preaching the morality of the Gospel, and of inculcating in their disciples those Christian virtues which dispose men to regard each other as brothers. These principles may serve to form good men and loyal subjects, but not enthusiastic sectaries.

Wishing to have disciples blindly subject to their ecclesiastical chiefs, the Greek priests begin by inspiring them with a violent hatred against Christians of every other communion. Even the Latins, who differ from the Greeks only in some ceremonies, and the adoption of some words, which have no relation to points of faith, are represented by these interested priests as *Skilos* or unbaptized dogs, with whom all intercourse is dangerous. Superstitious ceremonies, long fasts, frequent exorcisms, and a multitude of practices fitted to create religious terror, powerfully occupy the minds of the Greeks, and so completely fix their attention, that they have little room left for respect to real Christian virtues. Thus we find men among them who are capable of the greatest crimes regarded as less culpable, or as more worthy of Divine favour, than those who have more respect for the laws of society, but who venture to violate the fasts or neglect some of the numerous ceremonies recommended by the priests.

Tutored into the hatred of nations which profess a religion different from their own, it is not surprising that they should be disposed to show an aversion for every thing not Greek. Educated by priests with whom an absurd theological erudition supplies the place of all science and literature, the common Greeks despise every kind of knowledge which their *Papas* do not possess. Their knavery towards foreigners may be, as with the Jews, the immediate consequence of the hatred they bear to them. All these faults arise from religious fanaticism, and would disappear with it.

As to the cowardice of which they are accused, and which, after the recollection of the ancient heroes of Greece, appears contrary to the character of this oppressed and misled nation, it certainly is only apparent. Greeks of the Levant, in the Russian armies, have been known to display great bravery and all the brilliant qualities which characterized their ancestors.

Impartial travellers, too, have observed that within these 40 years the Greeks of the Levant begin to awaken from their long stupefaction, and that their principal men endeavour to give an impulse to the national regeneration. It is to the Greek families of Fanar (a suburb of Constantinople) that this change is chiefly to be attributed. As these families supply dragomans to the Porte, and temporary sovereigns for Walachia and Moldavia, they are obliged to study with care the languages and the politics of Europe in order to preserve their ascendancy over the Turkish ministers.

Grown rich and powerful, the Greek nobles of Fanar try to diminish the influence of the priests in order to augment their own, and are convinced that the best means of accomplishing this object is to disseminate knowledge among their countrymen. They have accordingly established schools in all the principal towns, for teaching young Greeks the French language, polite literature, medicine, and the physical and mathematical sciences. These establishments were much approved by Sultan Selim, to whom every plan for the diffusion of knowledge was agreeable.

The regeneration of the Greeks will inevitably prove fatal to the Turks, who, fascinated by a stupid attachment to their ancient customs, shut their eyes on the danger which menaces them. Being for the most part cultivators of the soil, or seamen, and generally habituated to fatigue, the Greeks possess all the physical qualities necessary for soldiers. Their ardent minds are susceptible of the most elevated sentiments. They begin to know their rights, as well as their own strength and their enemy's weakness; and they only wait for a favourable opportunity to crush their oppressors."



Saturday, March 23, 1822.

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## Newspaper Chat.

—Examiner—

Henry IV. being much enamoured of Mad. d'Entragne, asked her one day, which was the way to her chamber? Through the church, Sir, was the answer.

A wealthy person asked the philosopher Sadi, in derision, how it happened that men of wit were so frequently seen at the doors of the rich, and that the rich were never seen at the doors of men of wit? "It is," replied Sadi, "because men of wit know the value of riches; but rich men do not know the value of wit."

Leo, the Byzantine sophist, came to Athens to persuade the people to concord. Being a little fat personage, with a portly belly, he no sooner mounted the rostrum than a loud and universal laugh ensued. But he nothing moved, taking advantage of the incident, said, "Why do you laugh, men of Athens? My wife is yet fatter than I am." A louder laugh arose. But he proceeded, "Now, fat as we are, and large, one bed easily holds us when at concord; but when a variance arises, the whole house cannot contain us."

The actual population of Ireland is supposed to exceed 6,500,000; its productive land has been computed to amount to 13,454,375 acres. There are consequently little more than two acres to each inhabitant, and yet the value of the exported surplus produce of each acre, one with another, appears to have amounted to about 9s.

At the period of the late King's illness, one afternoon Colonel G — was desired to play a game at draughts with the Sovereign. His Majesty, as at other intervals, uncommonly lucid, kept his adversary's skill on the watch for an advantageous move. At length the opportunity arrived, when the Colonel exultingly said, "Now, Sir, I shall beat you; for I am going to make a king." "Then," said the Monarch, looking significantly, "you cannot make a more unhappy thing!"

A DELUGE.—"We have had," says Horace Walpole, dating his letter from Strawberry-hill, June 11, 1755, an extraordinary drought, no grass, no leaves, no flowers; not a white rose for the festival of yesterday," (the Pretender's birth-day.) "About four arrived such a flood, that we could not see out of the windows: the whole lawn was a lake, though situated on so high an Ararat. Presently it broke through the leads, drowned the pretty blue bed-chamber, passed through ceilings and floors into the little parlour, terrified Harry, and opened all Catharine's watergates and *speechgates*. I had but just time to collect two dogs, a couple of sheep, a pair of bantams, and a brace of gold fish; for in the haste of my zeal to imitate my ancestor Noah, I forgot that fish would not easily be drowned. In short, if you chance to spy a little ark with pinnacles sailing towards Jersey, open the skylight, and you will find some of your acquaintance. You never saw such desolation! It never came into my head before, that a Rainbow Office, for insuring against water, might be very necessary. This is a true account of the late deluge:—

"Witness our hands:—

HORACE NOAH;  
CATH. NOAH, her X mark;  
HENRY SHER;  
LOUIS JAPHET;  
PETER HAN, &c."

One of the soldiers, who used formerly to stand on each side of the stage at the theatre, happening to fall down suddenly in an apoplectic fit, the celebrated Miss Chudleigh immediately went into a fit, kicking and shrieking most violently, which caused much confusion. The next day, at Lady Townshend's, Charles Stanhope asked what those fits were called? Charles Townshend replied, "The true Convulsion Fits; to be had only of the Maker."

Dr. Suckling, who married a niece of Sir Robert Walpole, quarrelled with a country Squire, who said, "Doctor, your gown is your protection." "Is it so?" replied the Parson; "but, by God, it shall not be your's;" so pulling it off, he thrashed the Squire *divinely*!

What is termed Indian rubber, is an elastic gum, the produce of a shrub named *Bendud*, which grows in the East Indies. They have, in Java, one tree called the Soap Tree, the fruit of which they use extensively in the washing of linen; another which produces a kind of wax, which is used in lamps and made into candles, and has besides the quality of emitting an agreeable odour; and a third very useful tree, which produces a species of tallow. The celebrated "Upas Tree" is also a native of Java; but the stories once told of its dreadful qualities are now known to be mere romance; and the fact is, that though a strong poison may be prepared from the sap of the tree, mixed with some other substances, it is otherwise harmless. It is a fine forest tree, the stem rising perpendicularly the height of 60, 70, or 80 feet.

The edible nests, of which the Chinese epicures are so remarkably fond, are made by small swallows, which abound among the cliffs and caverns of Java, and the other Eastern Islands. Dr. Horsfield is of opinion, that the substance which makes these nests, so eagerly sought for as food, is an animal elaboration, perhaps a kind of secretion.

It is really quite ridiculous to hear people prate of the blessings of being born in England—of the advantages flowing from "our glorious constitution,"—of its being the "envy of the world," &c. England is doubtless a fine country, and might be made a happy one; but, for many years, it has been one of which the people at large have no reason to boast; and is now, in fact, one of the very last countries in which a humble man need wish to dwell. The poor of the Continent are unquestionably much better off than those of England; and if the following account, given by Sir Stamford Raffles, late Lieutenant-governor of Java, of the people of that island, be not a fabulous one, is there a rational creature, who does not see that Great Britain, whatever it might once have been, is not now the land in which the common people have a "goodly heritage?"—"In no other class of society (observes this intelligent author) are children of either sex considered as an incumbrance, or the addition to a family as a misfortune: marriage is therefore almost universal. An unmarried man past twenty is seldom to be met with, and an old maid is considered a curiosity."

In the year 1745, when the Scotch entered England, and a general consternation was diffused over a great part of the North, a certain Doctor preached upon Proverbs, chap. xxviii. ver. i. "The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion." But before a week was at an end, the Doctor and his family were gone—*Anonymous*.

Doctor Brett took for his text, "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord," 2 Cor. iv. 5. The text he pronounced twice, and very emphatically; but pausing rather longer than ordinary, the second time, at the words "*we preach not ourselves*," one of the audience turning to his neighbour, cried—"but our *Curates*."—*Ditto*.

It is a common observation, that unless a man take a *delight* in a thing, he will never pursue it with pleasure or assiduity. *Deligentia*, diligence, is from *dilige*, to love.—*Ditto*.

*Gentleness* and *gentility* are the same thing; and if they are not the same words, they come from one and the same original; from whence likewise is deduced the word *gentleman*; and it is certain that nothing that is rough and boisterous in men's manners can be *gentle*. The word *gentle*, however, has completely altered its signification. It was formerly connected with what was in high stations only, and to this day in some part of England *white bread* is called *gentle bread*.

"A gentle knight was pricking on the plain,"

means only that he was a man of good family. Now-a-days, though a *gentleman* would perhaps never be other than a *gentle-man*, I do not suppose that the oracles of politeness would allow that a *gentle-man* must also imply a *gentle* man.—*Ditto*.

EDIFYING SERMON.—The following is an abstract of a sermon preached at the York Assizes, before Mr. Justice Bayley (of prayer-book and tax-approving fame), by the High Sheriff's Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Powell. The *Times* Reporter says,—"We never heard the most unreserved and unqualified loyalty, or rather political optimism, recommended with more unhesitating solemnity."

"Without religion," quoth Mr. Powell, (meaning of course such as it has existed in conjunction with legitimate establishments,) "without religion the most atrocious crimes would have been committed;" (*auto-da-fes*, for instance, the burnings in Smithfield, and the massacre of Saint Bartholomew;) "there could be no mutual confidence between man and man" (such as the Jesuits inspired;) "truth could not be elicited, and justice could not be administered;" (Galileo, for instance, would not have been allowed to prove that the earth moves round the sun, nor would Louis the 14th have burnt the Palatine and recalled the edict of Nantes;) "yet religion could not control the passions and actions of men without the aid and enforcement of civil government." (Vide the histories of James the 2d., Henry the 8th., and the Popes.) "The state of religion and government in this country was the best that had ever been known," (for the Rev. Mr. Powell,) "or probably that would ever exist" (till he becomes a Bishop; when it will be rendered incapable of further excellence.) The legislature was wise and upright," (see the speeches of Lord Castlereagh; the proceedings respecting his truck and barter of seats; and the oath against bribery and corruption,) "the administration of justice enlightened and impartial" (lamps in the "London Tavern," *Best's Reports*, and the different treatment of Italian witnesses against the Queen, and English witnesses against the soldiers;) "there was provision for the needy," (especially for the widows of naval officers,) "and hospitals for the diseased," (who are also supplied with jokes by Mr. Canning.) "It was therefore the most sacred obligation upon all to support the religion and government of this country," (especially those whose arguments the former answers with jails, and whose adherence to the constitution the latter punishes with ditto,) "but it was particularly the duty of the rich and powerful!" (because, of course, they have not the advantage of the poor and weak, which must be delightful to such good people.) "It would be ungrateful as well as unjust not to acknowledge that the rich and powerful generally performed their high and important duties with great attention and success" (especially those most countenanced at court, such as the Marquisses of Anglesea and Headfort.) "Their

dwellings were encompassed with their beneficence and good example," (vide the gambling-houses passim, Lady Castlereagh's parties after the Saturday's opera has been shut by the Bishop and the Vice Society.) "Yet they would do well to exert their utmost vigilance against dangerous and blasphemous publications" (against those, for instance, who advocate the mistaken notion that corruption is not necessary, and who say that God is not an eternal punisher, and that the old Christians had a right to differ with the tribunals of law.) "If the poison of modern philosophy should work its way to the heart of the body politic, we should relapse into a worse condition than that of aboriginal heathenism and darkness," (when the Golden Age was supposed to exist, and angels walked with men.) "Christianity was infinitely more beneficial than all the learning of antiquity and all the shadowy, flimsy, and fallacious inventions of modern times" (that is to say, Christianity, according to Mr. Powell's construction, with a good disinterested train of those much misrepresented things, called "pomp and vanities," which it is proper to speak against only in the Catechism.) "Yet there were in this country poor men who felt the want of work, of food, and of due attention in sickness." (How now, Mr. Powell?) "It ought to be remembered that Christianity was not designed to give riches to the poor, health to the sick, youth to the aged. Its object was to direct the hopes and affections of men to another and a better world." (Oh, ho; there you settle it. But what then becomes of your hospitals, and of your blessed "rich and powerful"---Powell, Powell, thou art of ominous name, and an odd bearer of testimony!)

### Public Opinion in Spain.

(From the Madrid Paper, called *El Universal*, of the 31st of August.)

Amidst the occurrences which have during last week made so much noise in Madrid, one circumstance cannot have escaped observation, namely, the anxiety manifested by all the authorities to stand well in public opinion; each being anxious to show that he performed his duty, and that in all his proceedings he respected the liberties of the people. This is a circumstance which must afford much gratification to the true friends of liberty, and teach them to form favourable presages for the future. Let us compare our present with our former situation, and then consider what would have happened if the same event which took place on the 20th had occurred in Madrid three years ago. It is probable that the injured would have been the punished. Force would have suppressed public indignation, and the authorities, instead of endeavouring to exculpate their conduct, would have boasted of their aggressions, which perhaps would have been rewarded as meritorious. Thus it is no longer to be doubted that liberty has already created a public spirit in Spain, and opinion has erected amongst us a tribunal to the authority of which high and low must submit.

Another circumstance which calls for observation with respect to these events, is the alacrity with which the enemies of our tranquillity take advantage of the most casual incidents, in order to make them contribute to the attainment of their wicked purposes. On the slightest symptom of indignation among the citizens, they mix with them, and endeavour to convert a transitory dissatisfaction into a popular tumult. There is no calumny which they do not invent, no suspicion which they do not excite, no intention which they do not blacken, no act which they do not misrepresent, for the purpose of infusing jealousy and distrust into the minds of the people; but all their efforts are vain; public circumspection turns into ridicule all these artifices; the error is of short duration; truth soars triumphant over chicanery and falsehood, and public opinion rightly estimates the facts which malice has disfigured, and does justice to all.

Finally, in all the events of this kind which, since our political regeneration, have occurred in Madrid, or even in the other parts of Spain, those who are capable of observing, and whose passions do not deprive them of that calmness which is necessary for seeing things in things in their true light, have remarked, that there are persons who lie in wait for occurrences with the view of giving them an importance which does not belong to them, and who are endeavouring by all means to make us deviate from the path which leads to national felicity. But it is at the same time evident, that all the attempts of those designing men are vain, and that the Spanish people, that is to say, the great body of citizens entitled to assume that honourable name, wish for liberty without anarchy, abhor civil war and disorders, and will, by prudent conduct, frustrate the iniquitous schemes of those who study how to render the name of liberty odious.

### DEATHS.

On Sunday, the 26th of August, at Oakwood, near Chichester, Louisa, third daughter of Sir George Hilary Barlow, Bart. and G. C. H. in her 23d year.

At Boulogne, on the 19th of August, in the 71st year of his age, Edward John Halland, Esq. of Devonshire-place.

### Sonnet.

ON SEEING HER MAJESTY, AFTER LIFE WAS EXTINGUISHED.

Fix'd on thy features by the seal of Death,  
When mild forgiveness won thy parting breath,  
Pale, placid piece of earth! that tender look  
Gives to this storm of grief a fond rebuke.  
Malice has done its worst! the beauteous bark,  
Pursued by foaming waves and tempests dark,  
Has sunk at last in long-desir'd repose,  
And o'er the wreck the raging billows close.  
Thy life has yielded to the final blow,  
That could not lay the lofty spirit low:  
But when inexorable Time shall bring  
Their final moments on his rushing wing,  
Well may thy bitter foes implore to live—  
Like thee to suffer—and, like thee, forgive.

### Oxford Blues and Life Guards.

We copy the following statement from a ministerial paper:—

"On Sunday morning the Blues relieved the Life Guards at the Horse Guards. The rabble collected in the square in front of the Horse Guards vented upon the Life Guards the most virulent abuse, calling them the "Tyburn butchers," and using every opprobrious epithet which could insult and irritate. When the Blues entered the square from the Park, they were cheered, and cries of "the brave Blues!—the Queen's Own!—the good fellows!" &c. were heard on all sides. The commanding officer of the detachment, turning to his men, told them to "drive out those rascals." The order was instantly executed, and in such a manner as taught the vagabonds that they were a little mistaken in their men. It was, indeed, quite ludicrous to see how they gaped and stared at each other when they arrived in the Park. Four of the Blues were afterwards ordered to precede the Horse Guards (when the latter rode off for their barracks), and to clear away the mob, a service which they also performed with alacrity and steadiness."

The above statement, so far as the conduct of the officer of the Blues is concerned, must be a gross fabrication. We cannot believe that any officer in the King's service would issue an order to attack a body of his fellow-subjects, merely for calling his men the "Brave Blues," and cheering them under the title of "Good fellows." Still less can we believe that an attempt was made to render any portion of the army who were before objects of popular favour, obnoxious to the people, merely because another portion of it had become unpopular from recent events. The Blues may and should divide military duty with the Guards according to military regulations, but we know of no military regulation which enjoins them to divide with them, popular odium, if unhappily the latter have incurred it.—*Times*.

After the Blues were relieved by the Life Guards on Wednesday week, at the Horse Guards, the latter wrote against the walls of the guard-rooms a variety of matter offensive to the feelings of the Blues, in consequence of their not drawing a sword or firing upon the populace on the day of the Queen's Funeral Procession. The words were—"Cowardly Blues"—"The Blues must go to Windsor"—"Country Quarters and Fire-side for Blues"—"Bloodless Blues," &c.—The Colonel of the Blues, Sir Robert Hill, hearing of the attack upon his Regiment, opened a communication with the Officer of the Life Guards on the subject, and it was found that the obnoxious matter was suffered to remain on the walls for some time after it was seen by the Non-commissioned Officers. Sir Robert Hill went to the Horse Guards, and compelled the Non-commissioned Officers to get water and a mop, and wipe out the attack upon the Regiment which he had the honour to command.—*Traveller*.

### THE ZEPHYR.

Zephyr, stay thy vagrant flight,  
And tell me where you're going:—  
Is it to sip off the dew-drop bright  
That hangs on the breast of the lily white  
In yonder pasture growing;  
Or to revel 'mid roses and mignonette sweet;  
Or wing'st thou away some fair lady to meet?—  
If so, then, hie thee away, bland boy;  
Thou canst not engage in a sweeter employ.  
"From kissing the blue of yon bright summer sky,  
To the vine-cover'd cottage, delighted, I fly,  
Where Lucy the gay is shining;  
To sport in the beams of her lovely eye,  
While her temples with roses she's twining.  
Then do not detain me; I sigh to be there,  
To fan her young bosom—to play 'mid her hair!"



# ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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## Bachelor's Ball.

"MAY THE SINGLE BE MARRIED, AND THE MARRIED LIVE HAPPY."

—TOAST.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I have just seen your friend BETTY SINGLE, who left Calcutta soon after the Bachelor's Ball; for having proposed to the Gentleman she spoke of to you, he immediately pulled out of his pocket his Agent's Accounts, and BETTY found that the figures on the *Debtor side* so far over-balanced those on the *Creditor*, that she discovered the match was *nuheen hoga*.

Bye the bye, Mr. Editor, she mentioned a circumstance which involves a question of great importance to both BETTY and myself, and will influence our future arrangements.

MISS SINGLE states, that on the night of the Bachelor's Ball she saw a curious looking Lady, who was reported to be just arrived on the ship GANGES, and on the look out for the same object as BETTY and myself, viz. a *Husband*; but on further enquiry Miss S. heard, that this said Lady was one of your *Four Wives*.

Now, Mr. Editor, as we think that this arrangement of yours is a very good one, we have no doubt of its becoming the fashion; and then, you know, instead of a *single* we shall have a *quadruple* chance of being married. One line, Mr. Editor, for pity's sake, and relieve the anxiety of your forlorn

Mofussil, March 21, 1822.

POLLY-GAMY.

### NOTE.

Marriage is often emphatically termed a Lottery, and any suggestion that could increase the chances, or, in other words, throw into the Wheel more Prizes than Blanks, is worth attention. Dr. Johnson, we believe, in allusion to this comparison, thought that if Individuals had their names shaken up in a bag and drawn out at random, instead of being brought together by the strange and capricious motives which often regulate parental or individual choice, there would be as much happiness in Matrimonial Alliances as is to be found in the present System. If this be true, the Mohammedans, who allow Four Wives as an orthodox number, have at least four chances to our one; and it would be hard indeed if more than three out of the four should turn out blanks. Whether it was any connection between a Mohammedan life for some years, and the supposed contraction of Mohammedan habits, that led to the ingenious rumour of our having the full complement of Wives permitted to the Faithful, we know not;—but we did not recognize any of the number wandering among the Masks in the Town Hall. There are some who readily content themselves with one;—while the capacious loves of others, both in ancient and modern days, require their hundreds and their thousands. One of the Kings of Africa is mentioned, by Mr. Bowditch, we believe, as taking on his Campaigns, Four Hundred Ladies, as a light travelling equipage! For others again, even a fragment or portion will suffice, as happily exemplified in the ingenious notion of Moore, in the following Impromptu:—

To the Large and Beautiful Miss ———, in allusion to some Partnership in a Lottery Share.

—"EGO PARS."—

VIRG.

In Wedlock a species of Lottery lies,  
Where in Blanks and in Prizes we deal;  
But how comes it, that you, such a Capital Prize,  
Should so long have remain'd in the Wheel?

If ever, by Fortune's indulgent decree,  
To me such a Ticket should roll,  
A sixteenth, Heav'n knows! were sufficient for me;  
For what could I do with the whole?

As Wives and Husbands are subject, like all other Articles of Barter and Exchange, to the relative influences of Supply and Demand; and as fair competition without unnecessary restrictions, is the surest way of causing each to find their own level and produce exactly their own worth:—we should recommend, if Spinsters or Bachelors are more abundant in the Market than they ought to be, that the prices or pretensions of each be respectively lowered; and if the free intercourse, which affability and good-breeding alike sanction, were to be more general, and not hedged round with such awful and imposing fences as they now are, we doubt not but that here, as in those better countries where "happiness" is made "our being's end and aim"—much more might be done towards its realization than is to be effected by the present system of limited and restricted intercourse that prevails.—ED.

## American and English Navy.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

As an old Sailor, and one professing to glory in the renown of your Country, I cannot but wonder that you should have inserted, without a comment, a Letter from the TIMES, which first appeared in the INDIA GAZETTE under the Signature J. P. In the first place, in the accounts of the several Captures, the force of the Americans is omitted, while that of the English is pointedly mentioned. This obtains, however, only when the disproportion of force was great, as in the cases of the capture of the *Frigates*, being no less than 10 guns *nominally*, and many more effectually. The English frigates were each of them 44 gun frigates, and mounted 48. The rate of the Americans was, I believe, 58, and they mounted more; at all events they had 10 guns more, and a much greater number of men, with the advantage of two flush decks, and are considered almost equal in force to a 64-gun ship. The insertion of such a Letter might have given you the opportunity of simply stating the capture of the *CHESAPEAKE*, in 15 minutes, being boarded after the first broadside, and carrying exactly 100 MEN more than her opponent; and what was the excuse made? why, foresooth, the Bugleman, whose duty it was to summon the Boarders, stowed himself away!! so that hereafter it will be necessary to wait that a new Bugleman may be appointed before you board an Enemy who cannot defend themselves till they hear the sound of a Bugle "amid the din of arms."

You might also have mentioned the capture of the *WASP* (I believe by the *Avon*.) in the same gallant style, both being of equal force. As an old Sailor myself, and speaking impartially, I think the two last captures may fairly be considered as the Naval Criteria between the two Nations.

March 15, 1822.

A SAILOR.

### NOTE.

We did not think it necessary to offer any comment on the Letter of the TIMES, for this plain reason, that it appeared to us to contain a statement of facts, of which we had no reason then, nor have we any now, to suspect the accuracy. The being an old Sailor, and professing to glory in the renown of our country, of both of which we are justly proud, is no reason at all why we should pretend to shut our eyes to facts, such as the short Naval Contest with America evinced. The complaint of our Correspondent, that the force of the American Ships is not mentioned, is singular enough; for if he will turn to the Letter again (at page 149 of the Journal) he will find that the number of guns is mentioned opposite the name of every vessel, from the *INDEPENDENCE* 78 down to the *ARGUS* 14. The object of the Letter was not at all to disguise the relative force of the Ships engaged, for both are distinctly stated; but to show the havoc in killed and wounded made by the American fire, while they had scarcely any injury done to their crews by the English fire. This arose not from superior seamanship, or superior bravery; for in these qualities the English, if equalled, are certainly not surpassed by the Americans; but it arose from their superior skill in Naval Gunnery, in which they had manifestly the most decided advantage. In the English Navy, the exercise of the men at their guns was much less thought of than the exercise of men aloft, in making shortening sail, and excelling each other in "smartness," the topmen being often timed by a stop watch in reefing topsails, like horses on a race-course, and these ships being considered smartest who could beat others by a few seconds in operations where even the delay of minutes to do well rather than expeditiously would be an advantage instead of an evil.

The American Commanders, however, though far from inattentive to smartness in manœuvres, in which they equalled any English Frigates that we ever saw (and we have had an opportunity of seeing nearly all the Frigates and Sloops of the Americans in the Chesapeake and most of the English Frigates in the four quarters of the Globe), considered the exercise of the men at their guns, as a duty of more importance than all others; and it was owing to their superiority as Naval Gunners alone that they so disabled our Ships by slaughter before they could get alongside of them.

Captain Brock in the *SHANNON* was so sensible of this, that he took more pains than had perhaps ever been taken in the British Navy before, to exercise his men; and by his perseverance they formed a crew of the most expert Naval Gunners perhaps ever brought together in one ship. His success was decisive of its advantages.—Captain Hope, of the *ENDYMION*, whom we have often heard speak slightly of the duty of exercising men at the guns, as less necessary than it was conceived (during the French war), thought so differently on this subject when the Americans had captured a few of our Frigates, that from the day of his appointment to the *ENDYMION* it was his chief study, like that

of the gallant Captain Brock, to train his men to the guns, when he went on the American Station; we know also from an Officer who was in that action, and who is now in Calcutta, that his chief reliance on approaching the American Frigate captured by him was on his crew being equal to hers in serving the guns; and the event being crowned with success, proved the accuracy of his judgment. We could write a long Essay on the subject of the English and American Navy, if we had time or space; but as our authority might be less valued than that of men higher in rank, and less ardent admirers of American Institutions than we are, we would refer our Correspondent, and all others who have any doubt of the accuracy of our statements, to an excellent little Work, that has just reached India, on Naval Gunnery, by Sir Howard Douglas, a General in the British Army, Son of a British Admiral, Principal Director of the Military College at Woolwich, and publishing under the auspices of the Board of Admiralty, and they will find that this high and unexceptionable authority thinks and speaks of the American Navy exactly as we have done.—Ed.

### Operations against Bungong.

SIR, To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Your epitomized account of the operations against the fortified village of Bungong being in many parts erroneous owing to my Letter of the 5th ultimo, from which it was taken, being illegible (having been written in a hurry) I shall be obliged by your having the goodness to publish the following correct account. What has been published, involves, in one part, an impossibility; for it is there said the bombardment commenced at 3 P. M. and the enemy evacuated the place at 2 P. M.; that is, that the effect happened before the cause.

Right Bank of the }  
Gogra, 7th March, 1822. }

A SUBSCRIBER.

On the 9th of February 1822, Major Faithfull's Detachment, consisting of a Squadron of the 1st Light Cavalry, the 2d Battalion 4th Native Infantry, 5 Companies 2d Battalion 9th Native Infantry and a Battering train of four 18-pounders and four 8-inch mortars, arrived before the fortified village of Bungong after a march of 14 miles. It appears the Chief of the village, Beyriar Singh, invited Major Faithfull to a parley. When close to the village, the Major was fired by at some of Beyriar Singh's people. Whether this was an act of treachery on the part of the garrison, or that they themselves had a suspicion of treachery on the part of the Aumil's troops (who, they might have thought, wished to steal into the place while the parley was carrying on) is not known. Indignant at being fired at, the Major ordered two of the 18-Pounders to be brought down to a position about 4 or 500 yards to the east of the village. From these pieces two or three rounds of grape were fired at the village. As soon as all the stores had arrived in Camp, a spot for the four mortars was pitched on, a breast work of fascines to protect the Artillerymen from the matchlock fire of the place was then thrown up, and behind this the mortars were placed by between 1 and 2 o'clock P. M. About 3 P. M. this battery opened on the village, and such was the effect produced by the shells and carcasses, that at sunset the whole place was a prey to the flames. Finding it too hot a place for them, the garrison evacuated Bungong at about 8 P. M. when our troops took possession. On examining the place next morning, it was found to be a large village, most of the houses of which were loop-holed all round, each house being a kind of Fort of itself. On the East side of the village was a square redoubt, consisting of a large house (with loop holes all round) in the centre. Round this house at the distance of about twenty feet was a breastwork of earth, and round the whole a deep and wide ditch. It must be observed that this redoubt was not visible from the mortar battery on account of a thick jungle on the brink of the ditch which completely covered the breastwork and house inside. The greater part of the village, indeed, was likewise concealed from our view by thick jungle. Against such a fortified position, therefore, guns would have been of little use: it was for that reason that only the mortars were employed. One shell fell unto the redoubt and did such execution that the garrison precipitately quitted it and never would return. Too much praise cannot be given to the European Artillerymen for their indefatigable exertions, first in raising, without any assistance whatever from the Infantry, a breast-work of considerable length and thickness, and then serving the mortars, and that after a long march of 14 miles.

### Hanging at Chandernagore.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

At half past ten o'clock this day, a Hindoo was launched into eternity, by being what is vulgarly called *hanged*. For three years past this unfortunate being has been in confinement for the crime for which he has to-day suffered. Owing to some unskillfulness in the party officiating, a great delay took place, and the criminal, in jumping out of the cart (which he did with alacrity) struck the ground with force, before the rope had any effect; and it being small with two parts rove through a block the sheave of which was too large, one of the parts broke. This not only caused some very strong convulsions in the man, but his agonies were prolonged by having a rope fixed round his waist so as to ease the remaining line on his neck, and hoist him off the ground. All this was not done without a wonderful deal of discussion on the part of the Natives employed, to the disgrace of the Magistrate of Police. Being myself there, through accident, I was surprised and disgusted to see so many well dressed Females present, as spectators this awful and most piteous sight.

The Great Napoleon in his Criminal Code, if I mistake not, abolished the above mode of execution; which in some measure may account for the want of dexterity and mismanagement of the Frenchmen, altho' very expert at other modes of exterminating.

Chandernagore, }  
March 18, 1822. }

Your most obedient,

F—.

### Native Pedestrians.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I read in your Paper of yesterday, a letter signed HUMANITAS, and the translated extract from the Bengalee Newspaper called the MOON OF INTELLIGENCE. Both relate to the illegal assaults too frequently made on Natives, by Europeans, upon the highways. Nothing can be more cowardly (as Sir Henry Russell told us from the bench, no matter how many years ago,) than for an European to strike a Bengalee; because he is a poor man, and there is no chance of his returning the blow. For my own part, I would not, on any account, run over those vagrant goats which sometimes cross one's horses feet so perversely. But men, women, and infants, do so obstinately persist in walking upon the very centre of the road, that I am frequently half frightened out of my senses; especially as I cannot see many inches beyond my horse's ears. Yet I never strike;—no, I content myself, when terribly alarmed, with vociferating "Sir, or Ma'am, you may retire,"—using that significant and spirited translation of those words into the native language, which you gave us in your JOURNAL some months, or years, ago. But, to be serious, most of the principal high roads in, and about, Calcutta, are very roomy and broad; and if the native pedestrians would get into the habit of using the *sides* of those roads, instead of walking exactly in the *middle* of them as they now do, they would escape lashes, and carriages would roll along uninterruptedly.—"Medio tutissimus" is an axiom in which Bengalee travellers should place no credit whatever.

With respect to the Chitpore Road, it is so narrow and so crowded, that whenever I have occasion to go up to pay my duty to the Governor General at Barrackpore,—or to Rockets, Dinner, Ball, Fireworks, and Supper, at Dum-Dum,—I invariably make progress to the Circular Road, through the Boitakhanah. This is the nearest route in the end,—because, even with flogging right and left (which is wholly unjustifiable) there is no possibility of escaping interruption, and temporary stoppages, in the swarming Chitpore Bazar.

Your's truly,

Mangoe Lane, }  
March 19, 1822. }

my hearty buck-in-game,  
FESTINA LENTE.



Saturday, March 23, 1822.

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**Exécution à Chandernagor.**

On a exécuté hier à Chandernagor un Bengali, condamné à mort le 13 Janvier 1821, comme atteint et convaincu d'avoir commis un homicide volontaire. Au nombre des spectateurs attirés par cette triste cérémonie se trouvait un vieux Colon qui fit les observations suivantes.

"Nos loix qui accordent trois jours francs après celui où l'arrêt de mort a été prononcé, pour se pourvoir en cassation, ordonnent positivement l'exécution dans les 24 heures, qui suivront le rejet du pourvoi. Comment donc se fait-il que le criminel soit exécuté quatorze mois après sa condamnation ?

"Si c'est à Pondichery que se trouve le tribunal de cassation, il suffisait de 30 ou 40 jours pour obtenir la révision du procès. Si ce tribunal est simplement d'appel, comment a-t-il pu juger avec connaissance de cause, sans procéder de nouveau à l'audition des témoins appelés en instance ? Dans le premier cas, que servait d'envoyer le prévenu à Pondichery ? dans le second pourquoi l'envoyer seul ? Il y a donc contradiction manifeste dans la manière dont on a procédé : il y a infraction complète aux loix de notre gouvernement, et tout fait présumer qu'on n'a pas saisi l'esprit de celle qui commande une prompte exécution (\*) Il y avait une ignorance impardonnable à envoyer le coupable à Pondichery, puis ensuite le ramener au Bengale pour le pendre à Chandernagor ; et il y a une négligence barbare à l'avoir laissé durant 14 mois en proie aux angoisses d'un désespoir affreux, qui d'ailleurs n'était d'aucun fruit pour le peuple, puisqu'il s'exhalait au fond des cachots.

"Ensuite," ajoutait le vieux Colon, "puisque notre code pénal, consacré par la nouvelle charte, dit expressément (Livre I, chap. 1) : tout condamné à mort aura la tête tranchée, comment se fait-il qu'on pend, quand on devrait décapiter ? comment se fait-il qu'on ose ainsi modifier la nature de nos peines ? comment se fait-il qu'on brave ouvertement les loix les plus délicates, celles qui concernent le droit d'oter la vie ? Qu'aurait-on répondu à cette Indien s'il s'était crié à l'aspect du gibet : Vous m'avez jugé selon les loix de votre pays ; vous devez me tuer selon leur mode d'exécution ! — Sans doute il n'a pas réclamé parce qu'il ignorait qu'il en avait le droit, et qu'on n'avait pas celui de le refuser. Pourquoi donc ne l'a-t-on pas instruit ? pourquoi n'a-t-on pas prévu cette juste réclamation ? pourquoi les dépositaires de nos loix, pourquoi ceux qui sont chargés de leur exécution et qui doivent sentir toute l'importance d'une rigoureuse exactitude en pareil cas ; pourquoi, dis-je, ces magistrats ont-ils souffert qu'on dressât une potence, au lieu d'un échafaud ?

"Ce serait une excuse inadmissible que d'attribuer cette infraction aux ordres d'un gouverneur ou d'un ministre ; puis que le Roi lui-même n'a plus droit aujourd'hui de modifier nos loix. Il suivrait d'un pareil raisonnement qu'il serait permis à ceux-ci de rétablir la question qui fut abolie avec le gibet ; et qu'il suffit de leur seule volonté pour faire pendre, rouer, empaler, ou guillotiner. Certes, un tel arbitraire n'est guère compatible avec un gouvernement aussi libéral que le nôtre, et l'on n'en trouve l'explication que dans les 6000 lieues qui séparent nos possessions de leur métropole.

"Nos loix, disent quelques uns, ne sont pas toujours applicables aux Colonies, et la plupart exigent des modifications locales. Cette observation est fort juste ; mais pourquoi, depuis 7 ans que nous avons repris nos établissements, n'a-t-on pas commencé un travail aussi important ? comment se fait-il que nous n'ayons pas encore un seul tribunal institué légalement ? D'où vient que tout est encore arbitraire, on pen s'en fait, dans notre jurisprudence coloniale ? d'où vient enfin qu'on viole chaque

jour les principes de la plus simple justice, et qu'il ne se rend pas un seul arrêt dans nos tribunaux de l'Inde qui ne fut, par défaut de forme, unanimement cassé en France ? Comment pallier des torts si graves à moins de s'avouer complètement incapable, et de convenir qu'étrangers à toute pensée de grandeur, de bienfaisance et de dignité, la plupart des agens supérieurs dans l'Inde s'imaginent que l'on peut, sans préjudice pour la chose publique, se laisser influencer par des commis ou des femmes, et que tout le talent d'un administrateur consiste à barbouiller, numérotter, légaliser, commérer et contrôler.

"On prétend," ajoutait le vieux Colon, "que cette exécution fut différée par la crainte que le gouvernement Anglais ne s'y opposât, et ne voulut ainsi restreindre l'étendue de notre juridiction criminelle, attribut ordinaire de la souveraineté. Quand on se rappelle les efforts de l'administration pour obtenir en 1820 le droit d'exécution dans les misérables restes de nos comptoirs, on trouve bien extraordinaire qu'on tienne autant à jouir d'un droit affreux, quand on renonce à cent autres plus honorables et plus avantageux ; il paraît inconcevable qu'on s'inquiète beaucoup moins des moyens de faire prospérer nos colonies que de châtier ceux qui s'y trouvent ; et qu'on mette, en un mot, plus d'importance à avoir des bourreaux qu'à établir des institutions bien-faisantes."

Les réflexions du vieux Colon furent interrompues par un cri sourd, qui s'éleva parmi les assistants, en voyant tomber deux fois le cadavre encore animé du criminel, parce que la corde était trop faible pour le soutenir, quoiqu'on l'eût mise en double. Le vieux Colon prétendit que ce malheur était motivé par l'économie ; mais il est bien certain qu'il n'y avait que de l'imprévoyance.

Chandernagor le 18 Mars 1822.

VIATOR.

**Talking and Driving in the Streets.**

SIR, To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Your Correspondent HUMANITAS takes a contracted view of a subject, to which the public attention has occasionally, during many years, perhaps ever since the days of CLIVE, been attracted, but without the least practical advantage. The time, however, seems to be arrived when some improvement may be expected ; since the increasing density of the European and Native population renders the present anarchy more and more intolerable.

There are three parties to be considered in this matter : *Natives, Europeans, and Magistrates.* Of each in their order : It must be admitted that the Natives are as far behind us in the art of orderly arrangement of passengers in the streets, and at ferries, as they are in every thing else. One would suppose that the greater part of the foot-passengers were blind and deaf ; and it is truly astonishing that, in spite of daily experience, they should straggle about in the middle of the street, as if they had never seen a chariot, or a buggy, in their lives. Every carriage that successively meets them, or overtakes them, comes upon them by surprise ; whereas the simplest instinct might teach them that if they would take one side of the road, and leave the middle free, they might walk with safety and convenience. No buggy-driver would go out of his way to touch them. Who has not observed that palankeen bearers seldom understand each other in bawling *dyna ! dyna !* The fore men are pulling one way, the hind another, and before they come to an understanding, they have probably brought the palankeen just athwart the coming carriage !

In the two Bengally Newspapers the subject is treated with equal simplicity. They throw the blame exclusively on the buggy-driver who forces his way through the refulgent multitude, though his very success proves that there was room enough to leave him a clear passage if they had pleased ; and they seem to expect that each carriage should have runners in front to persuade each foot-passenger to keep his own side of the road ! No. III. of the *COWMUNDY* contains "An Appeal to the Magistrates of the Calcutta Police, to resort to rigorous measures for relieving the Hindoo Inhabitants of the Metropolis, from the serious grievance of Christian Gentlemen driving their Buggies amongst them, and cutting and lashing them with whips, without distinction or sex

(\*) Les instructions de 1814 portent que la distribution de la justice dans les établissements secondaires et comptoirs de l'Inde, continuera l'avoir lieu comme il est prescrit par l'édit de 1776 et par celui de 1784 : c. a. d. que les fonctionnaires chargés d'y rendre la justice la rendront en première instance, à charge d'appel au conseil supérieur de Pondichery : mais pour peu que l'on compare notre situation passée avec notre position présente, on sentira que ce qui pouvait avoir lieu en 1776 et 1784 est devenu impossible en 1820 ; puis que d'ailleurs nous avons des loix postérieures à ces époques.

or age, whilst they QUIETLY ASSEMBLE IN IMMENSE NUMBERS to witness the images of their Deities pass in the Chitpore Road, when many of them, through terror and consternation caused by the lashing inflicted on the spectators, fall down into drains, while others are trampled under foot by the crowd." I hope this "Appeal" will make due impression in the proper quarter, and that measures will be taken to prevent those quiet obstructions of the high-ways, as well as those "hideous noises caused by riotous bands of Native musicians wandering about the streets," so justly denounced in the INDIA GAZETTE. The shouts of the Irish ceased at night only that His Majesty might sleep; but the inhabitants of the palaces of Calcutta can expect no such civility from its rabble, who are freely permitted to "make night hideous" with

"Cymbal, conch, and every note

"That brays from War's barbaric throat"

and the glare of innumerable torches. To prevent such nuisances is no more an interference with religious prejudices than the just punishment of Waller the Ranter at Ashton-under-Lyne, was an act of religious intolerance.

In the SUMOCHAR CHUNDRIKA, a writer complains of "a certain class of mortals," physicians for instance, "who are continually gadding about in carriages, which they drive in public roads, through lanes, and in every direction where a carriage can pass. They even drive them in dark nights, and sometimes WITHOUT ANY GROOM BEFORE THEM. While thus in the act of driving their carriages, if a poor person, who is at that time meditating perhaps on his wretched condition" (*nescio quid meditantur nugarum, et totus in illis*) "happen to be near at hand" (indulging his "castle-building" propensity, between sleeping and waking, in the middle of the street,) "he does not escape a sound lashing with their whips. At this however the poor innocent man is quite dissatisfied and confounded; for he sees no reason why he receives the blow." Now there are two reasons: first, the humane motive of flapping the meditative innocent out of the way to save his bones; secondly, a natural movement of anger at having narrowly escaped the placid state of being the unintentional cause of injury to a fellow creature. The flourish of the whip is as much as to say, "you stupid innocent! It was with the greatest difficulty I could avoid running over you."

It will be obvious that I consider European buggy-drivers the least blameable party. I make no excuse for wanton insolence, much less for cruelty; but where anarchy prevails, the strong will elbow their way, and yet they may be as desirous as the weak to be delivered from so disagreeable and unseemly a condition.

The conclusion is that the Magistrates must seriously address themselves to the information of this great evil, by teaching the Natives the rule of the road; by constructing footpaths in all the principal streets, as is done at Bombay; and by vigorously repressing all diurnal, and especially nocturnal, collections of ranters, brawlers, and musicians in the streets, whether in commemoration or in celebration of gods or men, except in quarters of the town where the inhabitants may delight in such things. It is not by lay sermons on humanity, but by an active and vigilant care of the public welfare, and by multiplying the number of that class in the population, who originate all improvements, and whose interests are identified with whatever does honour to the British name, that our Empire of Opinion can be maintained and strengthened.

March 19, 1822.

A CREOLE.

### Shipping Arrivals.

CALCUTTA.				
Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence Left
Mar. 22	Charles Miles	British	G. Wise	Mauritius Dec. 27
22	Mary Ann	British	J. Webster	Bombay Jan. 26
22	Alfred	British	W. Dolge	Rangoon Mar. 1

### Shipping Departures.

CALCUTTA.				
Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Mar. 21	Elizabeth	British	G. Vint	Batavia

## The Voices of the Fancy.

1ST VOICE.

Hark—hear ye not the rustling peal,  
Of coming gigs with whirling wheel;  
Of carriages that hasten o'er  
The dust-dark road, and like the roar  
Of gathering storms upborne on high,  
That presage wrath and tumult nigh,—  
Come thundering on, and as they near,  
Deafen the stunn'd, and shrinking ear!

2D VOICE.

And see ye not, from yonder height,  
Throng'd myriads speeding to the fight,—  
Blackguard, and blackleg-ruffian there,  
Eager the promised scene to share:  
Fierce arm'd with bludgeon, staff, or stick,  
And armour'd with their doublets thick,  
Or upper Benjamin;—and round  
The neck a yellow Belcher bound;  
While all bespeaks the busy bustle,  
The coming din—of fistic tustle.

3D VOICE.

Dog-cart—dennet—tandem—chaise  
Whose cattle knew no glad relays;  
Car and chariot, clustering throng,  
Till, like some war-charge, borne along  
In one wild course all hurrying on  
In breathless tumult seek the fun!

2D VOICE.

The scene is gain'd—they form a ring,  
And pale suspense is on the wing!  
Lo! bare is now the Champion's brawn,  
His fist would seem his foe to warn;  
His mighty chest is given to view,  
Like beef or bacon, beams its hue;  
His shall be the conquering wreath—  
Him shall laud the deep-voiced breath  
Of hosts, that soon shall pean forth,  
The Victor!—first of fistic worth!

1ST VOICE.

Lo! his foeman's form is ready,  
With check unblench'd and soul as steady—  
See! he shakes the Champion's hand  
Firm and fierce he takes his stand,  
Spars and pauses—at it goes.—  
Thick as sleet the mingling blows,  
Like the shiv'ring bolts of heaven,  
'Gainst the crushing pine-top driven,  
Dire the deadly daddles ply—  
Lo! that dowsie hath dish'd an eye!

THE VOICES.

Spar and parry!—parry, spar!  
Close and cling in fiercer war,  
Whiz cross-buttock—down the chopper,  
Drop the chin with sledge and wapper!  
Bid the gushing claret flow,  
Till the ring be red below!  
Meet ye—like the Tiger's fight,  
Like the warring Lion's might;—  
Gods! that blow was nobly bored!  
Lo! the Champion's foe is floor'd."

March 12, 1822.

CALEB QUOTEM

\* It need scarcely be mentioned that the above is an humble imitation of the Mysterious Voices of War in the Journal of to-day.

### Marriage.

At Dacca, on the 12th instant, by the Reverend A. W. TAYLER, Mr. CHARLES LEONARD, to Miss ANNE RADCLIFFE.

### Death

At Serampore, on the 20th instant, at the house of Dr. MARSHMAN, the infant Son of H. A. WILLIAMS, Esq. aged 12 days.